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18 October 1946

Country: USSR

Subject: Political Developments

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Political Developments

1. [REDACTED]
2. Stalin's health is considerably shattered; his left hand always shakes and his left side is somewhat crippled with symptoms of paralysis. He looks tired and worried. His condition is not one of immediate danger but doctors advise him to limit his work. Stalin is still the real power behind all planning. He supervises all military and foreign affairs. He delegates domestic matters to others, especially to the younger Communists who are blindly devoted to him and have no personal demands such as the older leaders have.
3. Stalin himself has taken charge of the entire Far Eastern section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with Malik as assistant. His Far East policy is to maneuver as long as possible to delay an inevitable war. Manchuria is to be of great importance. The Far East is now important for diversionary action but this is less urgent than European problems.
4. Stalin is disgusted with Marshal Tito because of the latter's luxurious living, personal appearance, and egotism and his hesitation to follow Moscow's instructions blindly. George Dimitrov actually supervises the affairs of Yugoslavia.
5. After months of exile in Odesa, Marshal Shukov has been recalled to prepare a general plan for the invasion of Turkey in case of conflict. He will again play a prominent part in the national reconstruction but will never again hold a military administrative position.

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6. Molotov is unpopular with Stalin because he is considered an amateur diplomat. Deputy Foreign Minister Vishinsky will probably soon be replaced by a younger diplomat.
7. Soviet Ambassador in Paris Bogomolov will be replaced soon because of his failure to win French support at the Peace Conference and because of conflicts with Macmillan.

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